Castro-JFK 'Link' Pursued

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By ERNEST VOLKMAN

SEN. RICHARD SCHWEIKER

Attacks Warren Report.

The key moment, Sen. Richard Schweiker, R-Pa., later recalled, came sometime in early September.

As a member of Sen. Frank Church's Select Committee on Intelligence Activities, he was listening in executive session to a Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) witness who was discussing Cuban Prime Minister Fidel Castro's reaction to U. S. attempts on his life.

It all was fairly routine stuff—much of it had already been published—but then the witness added, "And Castro said, 'If they (the Kennedys) don't stop trying to get me, I'll get them!' "

That statement, one committee staff member said, had a great impact on Schweiker. "He almost jumped out of his chair," he said. "He put two and two together before anybody else; namely, what did Castro's threat have to do with President John F. Kennedy's assassination, and more specifically, with Lee Harvey Oswald?"

The question led Schweiker and Sen. Gary Hart, D-Colo., another member of the committee, to persuade Church to form a two-man subcommittee of themselves to investigate the assassination and Oswald and his yet-unspecified links with the CIA and FBI.

It also led Schweiker to delve into all 26 volumes of the Warren Commission's 1964 report on the assassination. He was not satisfied with the results.

"It's a house of cards," he says. "Recent disclosures have devastated its credibility."

Schweiker is not alone in his doubts. A Gallup Poll this year concluded that nearly 60 per cent of Americans think Oswald did not act alone and that a conspiracy was involved.

The revival of interest is due not only to Watergate-inspired disbelief about the word of government officials, but also to several significant revelations elicited during congressional investigations concerning the CIA and the FBI, which did all the investigative work for the Warren Commission.

First, there were the revelations about the CIA's secret war against Castro, which apparently included assassination attempts.

Second, there were disclosures about the curious relationship between Oswald and the FBI. Worse, the FBI now has admitted it destroyed evidence on Oswald—a letter that he had written before the assassination, threatening to blow up the Dallas police station.

The new public interest has begun to generate congressional interest.

The interest is not strong, because most members of Congress are reluctant to begin a new investigation of Kennedy's death unless there is what one congressman called "strong, persuasive and hard evidence that Oswald didn't act alone—in other words, a smoking pistol."

Nevertheless, besides the Schweiker-Hart subcommittee, there is a House committee examining the roles of the FBI and CIA in the assassination investigation.

There also are several resolutions, all in committee, calling for creation of a new commission to investigate the assassination.

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